

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): An apparatus for transporting or storing products comprising:

a plurality of substantially block-shaped containers, said containers capable of being folded/disassembled;

a carrier comprising at least one layer of said substantially block-shaped containers disposed thereon; and

a coupling for securing at least one of said containers to at least one or more of said other containers and/or said carrier.

Claim 28 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said plurality of containers are sufficiently rigid and capable of substantially maintaining a shape after one or more similar containers have been disposed thereupon.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said plurality of containers are sufficiently rigid and capable of substantially maintaining a shape after one or more non-similar containers have been disposed thereupon.

Claim 30 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said one or more containers have exterior dimensions substantially corresponding to those of a standard shipping container.

Claim 31 (new): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the standard shipping container is a 20-foot shipping container.

Claim 32 (new): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein a standard container is a 40-foot shipping container.

Claim 33 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said carrier comprises one or more fastening elements with which one or more of said containers is secured.

Claim 34 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said coupling comprises one or more coupling elements.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein one or more of said coupling elements are disposed within an exterior surface of said one or more carriers.

Claim 36 (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein one or more of said coupling elements are positioned such that at least some portion thereof extends beyond said exterior surface of at least one of said containers.

Claim 37 (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said one or more coupling elements is operable with one or more forks of a forklift.

Claim 38 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said carrier comprises a bolster.

Claim 39 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said carrier comprises a flat.

Claim 40 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one layer of said substantially block-shaped containers comprises at least one of said containers disposed alongside at least another said container.

Claim 41 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one layer of said substantially block-shaped containers comprises at least one of said containers disposed behind at least another said container.

Claim 42 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least one layer of said substantially block-shaped containers comprises a plurality of containers disposed alongside as well as behind other said containers.

Claim 43 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein one or more of said containers is disassembled and components thereof disposable within a standard shipping container.

Claim 44 (new): The apparatus of claim 43 where the shipping container is a 20-foot shipping container.

Claim 45 (new): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the shipping container is a 40-foot shipping container.

Claim 46 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein one or more of said containers is foldable and disposable within a standard shipping container.

Claim 47 (new): The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the shipping container is a 20-foot shipping container.

Claim 48 (new): The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the shipping container is a 40-foot shipping container.

Claim 49 (new): The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said one or more containers comprises a frame and an inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 50 (new): The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said inner carrying apparatus comprises a foldable inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 51 (new): The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said inner carrying apparatus comprises ventilation openings.

Claim 52 (new): The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said inner carrying apparatus is removable from said frame.

Claim 53 (new): A method for transporting or storing products, the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more substantially block-shaped containers, the containers capable of being folded/disassembled, securing one or more containers to another container or containers and/or to a carrier;

disposing one or more products within one or more containers when the containers are in an assembled configuration;

removing substantially all the product disposed within one or more containers; and
folding/disassembling one or more containers such that a volume of one or more containers is greatly reduced.

Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of securing a plurality of assembled containers together through the use of a locking coupling.

Claim 55 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of stacking a plurality of substantially empty folded/disassembled containers together.

Claim 56 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of disposing one or more of the containers on a substantially flat surface of the carrier.

Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of transporting the products in the containers.

Claim 58 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of disposing a plurality of the containers in such a manner as to substantially correspond to the outside dimensions of a standard shipping container.

Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 58 wherein the container is a 20-foot container.

Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 53 wherein the container is a 40-foot container.

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of providing one or more non-foldable containers.

Claim 62 (new): The method of claim 61 wherein the one or more non-foldable containers comprise a standard shipping container.

Claim 63 (new): The method of claim 62 wherein the container is a 20-foot container.

Claim 64 (new): The method of claim 62 wherein the container is a 40-foot container.

Claim 65 (new): The method of claim 62 wherein the one or more non-foldable containers comprises a combination of standard 20-foot and 40-foot shipping containers.

Claim 66 (new): The method of claim 56 wherein the step of disposing one or more of the containers on a substantially flat surface of the carrier comprises disposing one or more of the containers on a flat.

Claim 67 (new): The method of claim 56 wherein the step of disposing one or more of the containers on a substantially flat surface of the carrier comprises disposing one or more of the containers on a bolster.

Claim 68 (new): The method of claim 53 wherein the step of providing one or more containers comprises providing one or more containers comprising a frame and an inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 69 (new): The method of claim 68 wherein the step of providing one or more containers having the inner carrying apparatus comprises providing a foldable inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 70 (new): The method of claim 69 wherein the step of providing an inner carrying apparatus further comprises providing ventilation openings in the inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 71 (new): The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of removing the inner carrying apparatus from the frame.

Claim 72 (new): The method of claim 71 further comprising the step of cleaning the inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 73 (new): The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of folding the inner carrying apparatus.

Claim 74 (new): The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of disposing a plurality of the one or more containers in such a manner as to create an assembly thereof.

Claim 75 (new): The method of claim 74 wherein the step of disposing a plurality of the one or more containers further comprises creating an assembly having outside dimensions less than inside dimensions of a standard shipping container.